

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

The Parable of the Ten Talents.

The following instructive legend, including within its meaning the beautiful golden thread of thought conveyed in the parable of the ten talents, is at the present time current in Oriental lands. It is supposed to be of very ancient origin:— There went a man from home; and to his neighbors he gave, to keep for him, two sacks of golden shekels...

Unarmed it shows without; but when he would expose his sack's recesses, corn there he finds no more: One half of what was there proven rotten and decayed. Upon the other half have worm and mildew preyed, the putrid heap to him in red he doth return. Then he the other asks, "Where is my sack of coin?" Who answered, "Come with me and see how it has sped"...

Correct and apt quotations from the Bible are very refreshing. When a sound, evangelized discourse, full of powerful argumentation, is preached, the effect is durable, when appropriate texts are cited, and the quotations are as "gold," and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies.

To hear the sacred Scriptures grossly perverted is an unpardonable error. The word of God should be so familiar as to prevent such grossness. We are very strict in regard to secular quotations. If a favorite author becomes misrepresented, or, at least, is subjected to loss of beauty and charm, we feel very sensitive at once. The same thing applies with more force to the Bible. There is not one word in the whole Scriptures but what contains a power and relation to its fellows. Every word and sentence abounds in import and life, but if they are wrested from these harmonious relations, they must suffer not only in loss of vigor, but also in beauty and sweetness.

We are too prone to become lax in the committal and expression of Holy Writ. God's precious promises are too valuable to trifle with, His warnings are too fearful to mould into our own perverse interpretation. It requires much application, prudence, and prayer to infuse our minds with the power and our souls with the weight of God's living counsels.

Again, too many mingle their own frail language with the incomparable texts of God's word, and treat them as though they were the words of human composition. Strict attention to their reading and study would remedy this evil.

I have heard beautiful passages from the Bible misquoted in the prayers of fervent and eminent Christians. At such a time one would think that the pure, native language of Scripture was the best and the most powerful. The evil achieved through such habits is very great: the word is weakened, diluted, and becomes unpalatable to the saint as well as to the sinner. If we wish to keep the "well of English undefiled," let us respect the language and its forms as we find them in the Bible.

CITY RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

METHODIST.

The new United Presbyterian Church now in course of erection on Franklin street, between Frankford and the Market, will be a most handsome edifice, reflecting credit on the generosity of its congregation. The edifice will be 41 feet wide by 65 feet long, and the interior will be 125 feet by 45 feet; with front, including tower, 60 feet; height of side walls, 21 feet. The roof will be of iron, and the interior will be finished in oak, allowing 6 inches for the joists to rest on, thus preventing decay in the wood. The materials used in the construction of the edifice are of the best quality, and every part of the work has been done in a substantial manner. The cost of this building, if erected by contract in most parts of the city, would probably be from \$50,000 to \$60,000. The building committee are of the opinion that owing to the way they have managed the work, and on account of other things favorable to them, they can complete the same for less than \$40,000, and the building committee are of the opinion that owing to the way they have managed the work, and on account of other things favorable to them, they can complete the same for less than \$40,000, and the building committee are of the opinion that owing to the way they have managed the work, and on account of other things favorable to them, they can complete the same for less than \$40,000.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The laying of the cornerstone of the new Twenty-third Street Church, on Thursday afternoon, was a most impressive occasion, witnessed by a large number of persons. Rev. W. H. Barrett, pastor of the church, presided at the altar, and read a beautiful address, in which he expounded the meaning of the stone which was laid, and the obligations of the church to its members. The address was well received, and the services were concluded with prayer and singing.

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SUMMARY OF GENERAL CHURCH NEWS.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Beach Street Church of Boston is proving the Presbyterians can flourish in that city. It has been growing faster than any other church there. They have just paid the \$20,000 debt, with no aid from abroad. A correspondent tells us that the statement that the United Presbyterians, North and South, have reunited is a mistake, as they never divided. Their communications amount to 10,000, and number 100,000.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The Rev. W. H. Pennington, pastor of the Fifty-third Street Church, gave the name of fellowship, in his address at the meeting of the Synod, held at the month past. Of these 21 were received by baptism, and 11 were young people, members of the Sabbath School. During the three years that Mr. Pennington has served in his present home, 375 persons have been baptized.

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In Stripes, Checks and Shots, IN GREAT VARIETY. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., NO. 727 CHESTNUT STREET.

6-4 BLACK HERNANI,

HEAVY MESH, AT \$150 Per Yard. RICKEY, SHARP & CO., NO. 727 CHESTNUT STREET.

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THE NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF THE United States of America, WASHINGTON, D. C. CHARTERED BY SPECIAL ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED JULY 20, 1864. CASH CAPITAL, \$1,000,000.

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